FCHS HONOR CODE PLEDGE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**WARS IN UNITED STATES HISTORY: WHY WE FIGHT**

Use the PowerPoint review in order to match each of the wars listed below with the cause – or causes – of the conflict. After completing the matching activity, use evidence and argumentation in order to answer the questions that follow on the reverse of this page. Be ready to explain your answers.

**A. The Revolutionary War B. The War of 1812 C. The Mexican-American War**

**D. The Civil War E. The Plains Wars F. The Spanish-American War**

**G. World War I H. World War II I. The Cold War**

**J. The Korean War K. The Vietnam War L. The Persian Gulf War**

**M. The War in Afghanistan N. The Iraq War**

\_\_\_\_\_1. In this war, the United States invaded in order to overthrow the Taliban – and extremist Islamic fundamentalist junta which had sponsored Al-Qaeda and allowed them to plan terrorist attacks against the United States of America.

\_\_\_\_\_2. The United States wanted to stop the spread of communism in this war. After the USS *Turner Joy* was attacked by Ho Chi Minh’s gunboats in 1964, the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution was passed in order to allow the US military to defend the Saigon’s non-communist government.

\_\_\_\_\_3. This was a war of ideas, and although there was much rhetoric and posturing, the two principle adversaries rarely fought. The United States sought to promote democracy, capitalism, and the protection of individual rights. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, promoted communism, “a dictatorship of the proletariat,” and the collective.

\_\_\_\_\_4. In this war, Americans fought for their independence from Great Britain, seeking relief from “taxation without representation” and a host of Coercive Acts put upon them by the English.

\_\_\_\_\_5. After the explosion of the USS *Maine* in Havana Harbor was blamed on the Spanish by yellow journalists, the United States started a war of conquest against Spain.

\_\_\_\_\_6. Seeking to settle all of the land between the Mississippi River and the Pacific, Americans fought to place Native Americans onto reservations.

\_\_\_\_\_7. This war was a response to the aggression of Kim Il Sung, who invaded his southern neighbors in 1950. With approval from the United Nations, the US invaded in order to stop the spread of communism and restore the balance of power on this Asian peninsula.

\_\_\_\_\_8. After the United States was attacked by Japan on December 7, 1941, Americans declared war against all of the fascist, militarily aggressive, and murderous nations in the Triple Axis.

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\_\_\_\_\_9. The United States attacked our southern neighbor in 1846, claiming that “American blood had been spilled on American soil.” In reality, President James K. Polk wanted to take Texas, California, and the land of the Southwest for the United States… And he did!

\_\_\_\_\_10. After Saddam Hussein invaded the tiny (and very wealthy!) republic of Kuwait in the summer of 1990, President George H.W. Bush formed a coalition of nations to liberate the country. Kuwait was freed; Saddam Hussein, however, remained in power.

\_\_\_\_\_11. The United States entered this war because of the sinking of the HMS *Lusitania,* unrestricted submarine warfare, the Zimmermann Telegram, and Woodrow Wilson’s desire to “Make the World Safe for Democracy!”

\_\_\_\_\_12. Because the British refused to leave our western boundaries, and because the British navy continued to “impress” – or kidnap – American sailors, President James Madison asked for and received a declaration of war against England from the “War Hawks” in Congress.

\_\_\_\_\_13. This war was fought principally over the issue of slavery, but the slavery issue influenced many other issues: the tariff, “states rights” philosophy, and the issue of secession. When newly elected President Abraham Lincoln called up 75,000 soldiers to put down a secessionist revolt in South Carolina at Fort Sumter, the war started.

\_\_\_\_\_14. Claiming that dictator Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction – and seeking regime change in Iraq – George W. Bush and Congress authorized the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Identify the ***three (3) wars*** which the United States has participated in which were ***the most aggressive and unjust***. In what ways are the causes of these wars similar? In each case, did the ends justify the means? Was it worth it to sacrifice our normal values in order to gain territory?

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